

All that I can say is, that it caused Mr. Dickson more trouble of mind than anything he met with since the beginning of the war; and, to my certain knowledge, three months of this Winter have made him look ten years older than he is.

As for Capt. Bulger, I have the same opinion of him that I had before. I think him a just, impartial man, and in every respect a gentleman. But still it is a prevailing opinion here, that he is misled by flattery. This is a thing I will not ascertain. However, should it be the case, he is not the first one; some of the ablest kings that ever filled a throne have been misled, even to the block, and I am sorry to perceive that he has lost the greatest part of that attachment and fondness which the inhabitants of this place seemed to have for him in the beginning.

Since my return from below, I find by different channels not to be questioned, that a certain person—and that, too, the last that could be suspected of being guilty of such low-lived, dirty actions—had, during the whole Winter, acted not only the part of a busy-body but that of a snake in the grass. It seems that this corrupted villain has been the sole author of all this misunderstanding. This perfidious wretch has long been sowing the seed of discord everywhere. Even those under whose roof he has been hospitably treated, have felt the effects of his slandering and unmanly, villainous behavior. It appears that the main object of this sneaking puppy was to undermine the whole [Indian] Department. He is an aspiring youth at everything that can be obtained by flattery, cringing, creeping, sneaking, pimping, by which means he has got into favor. But I hope a little time will bring everything to light, and then the devil shall have his due. Excuse me for not giving his name for the present. That I reserve till I have the pleasure of seeing you. It seems there was more than one concerned in all these slanders, I, who never interfere with any others' business, could not be exempted from calumniating reports to my prejudice while absent. They were of that nature that my present situation could not pass over them in silence. On finding out the author, Mr. Bouthelier, I obliged him to appear before the commanding officer for an explanation of